



West Fertilizer Plant Explosion

Regional Update

April 23, 2013, 1200 CDT

- On April 22, 2013, EPA continued air monitoring activities with two stationary sites proximal to the facility and one mobile monitoring team that monitored in the neighborhoods west of the facility. Twenty-four hour air monitoring activities have been reduced to daylight operations only. The Federal Coordinating Officer met with all federal agencies today en route to coordinate with State of Texas officials in Austin, Texas.
- CSB collected 9 samples on West Fertilizer Company property. CSB reported that results for the samples of dry wall, roofing tile, insulation material, and other fibrous material were negative for asbestos.
- EPA continues to coordinate with ATF, OSHA, CSB, TCEQ, and the Office of the Texas State Chemist on current and future site operations.
- TCEQ contractors continued conducting air monitoring around the facility perimeter.
- An official statement of the cause of the incident has not been released. Investigations into the order of events and cause of the explosion are on-going. Incident Command provided no additional "facts" regarding ammonia nitrate as a source.
- EPA attended a meeting for all Federal Agencies as requested by FEMA. The FEMA meeting consisted mainly of the FCO expressing a consistency of cooperation among federal agencies while supporting state and local response efforts. FEMA has classified this event as Category B, which relates to emergency protective measures, as well as time and money spent for response efforts - reimbursement for state and local responders.
- A demand letter was issued by TCEQ. The letter outlines various codes related to imminent substantial endangerment in which the RP would need to notify TCEQ with intent of response. [In addition, can u ask TCEQ what type of order they issued the PRP for cleanup? Kelly stated TCEQ gave Adair 5 days to respond to whether or not Adair would remediate the site?]
- 24-hour operations for mobile air monitoring have been discontinued. Air monitoring will resume at 0700 hrs on Tuesday and continue through 1900 hrs each day. EPA will continue monitoring for the same parameters which include volatile organic compounds, ammonia, carbon monoxide, and lower explosive limit of methane gas. No air monitoring readings above background were detected during today's operations.
- EPA OSC's attended site briefings and law enforcement/operational briefings. Conducted a meeting with CSB, TCEQ, and OSHA, and coordinated with ATF, CSB, TCEQ, OSHA, DOT, the Office of the Texas State Chemist, and EPA CID on current and future site operations.
- 2-EPA OSCs, 1 EPA PIO, and 4 START contractors conducted operations throughout the day.
- TCEQ and EPA RA will tour site today.
- POTUS will attend a memorial for citizens of West on Thursday in Waco.
- 2 OSCs demobilized from the site on 4/22 (2 OSCs remain).
- OSC E. Delgado will transition with OSC Moore on 4/23 and continue to address data needs from the field.

| Personnel | EPA OSC In Field | EPA RSC in Field | R6 Contractor In Field | National Criminal Enforcement Response Team Agents | EPA In REOC | Contractor In REOC | Total |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| | 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 20 |
| Total | 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 20 |

*OSC's deployed with the Mobile Command Post